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May 8, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

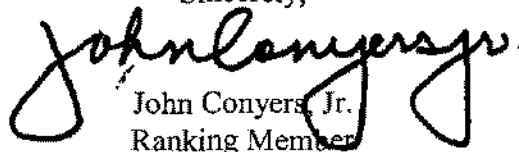
Dear Mr. President:

I was shocked to hear the recent comments made by Sam Nuckolls, the American official supervising the hiring of translators in Iraq. Specifically, I was stunned to hear the official slam the door on an Iraqi applicant and mockingly remark, "Guiding these local Arabs around is like herding cats . . . herding cats into closets . . . except the cats don't complain as much."

Granted, the situation in Iraq is a difficult one for Americans who are working hard to help rebuild the Iraqi infrastructure. But there is absolutely no excuse for the kind of arrogant and bigoted treatment exhibited by Mr. Nuckolls toward well-meaning Iraqis who only want to find employment and work with the U.S. to improve their nation.

As such, I am calling on you to immediately remove Mr. Nuckolls from his position and offer an apology to the Iraqi people whom he has treated so callously.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary